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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,558	05/01/2001	Jayakumar Krishnankutty	CISCO-3678	5971

7590 10/23/2003

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EXAMINER

LEFKOWITZ, SUMATI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2189

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DATE MAILED: 10/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/847,558

Applicant(s)

KRISHNANKUTTY, JAYAKUMAR

Examiner

Sumati Lefkowitz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 May 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are pending.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because
 - in Figure 3, elements 308, 310, 316, 318, and 314 are not labeled with textual descriptions

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

It is requested that the title make mention of the fact that the capturing of revision data is done automatically.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because
 - the abstract fails to mention that the revision information is automatically sent from the slaves to the master for collection/storage by the master by way of the pulse generating

and receiving logic and that the revision information stored in the master may be accessed by a user

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al., 6,442,446 (hereinafter Nakamura) in view of Farmwald et al., 5,179,670 (hereinafter Farmwald).

As to claims 1-3, Nakamura discloses a system for automatically updating the revision level of programmable devices comprising a master programmable device (i.e., EC 12) having a memory (i.e., version information file 16) space operatively disposed therein, and at least one slave programmable device (i.e., machine controllers MC, 11), the slave programmable device coupled to the master programmable device through an interface (note Figures 2-5) and configured to send revision information to the master programmable device, wherein the memory space further includes a revision register (i.e., version information file 16) containing one or more memory locations, each memory location corresponding to a slave programmable device (note abstract, Figures 2-5, column 1, lines 25-38, column 2, lines 17-28, column 3, line

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66 – column 4, line 3, column 4, lines 14-25, column 4, lines 36-51, column 5, line 55 – column 6, line 24, and claim 13).

Nakamura fails to disclose that the master programmable device has pulse receiving logic and the slave programmable device has pulse generating logic, or that the revision information comprises a pulse stream corresponding to the revision level of a slave programmable device.

Farmwald discloses pulse receiving and pulse generating logic for receiving and transmitting pulses, respectively, to identify the slot position of each unit on a bus and the total number of units on the bus, so that the information comprises pulse streams corresponding to the number of units and the respective slot positions of the units (note abstract, column 1, line 53 – column 2, line 43 and column 4, line 44 – column 6, line 40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the use of pulse generating and receiving logic to indicate using a pulse stream device specific information about devices on a bus, as Farmwald teaches, in the system of Nakamura so as to reduce the number of signal lines required to provide device specific information to other devices in the system, as Farmwald teaches at column 1, lines 24-58.

7. Claims 4, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al., 6,442,446 (hereinafter Nakamura) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA).

As to claims 4, 5, and 7, Nakamura discloses a system for collecting programmable device revision information comprising means for sending, by the at least one slave programmable device (i.e., MC 11), revision information to the master programmable device

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(i.e., EC 12), means for receiving (i.e., version information collection section 15), by the master programmable device, the revision information, and means for storing (i.e., version information file 16), by the master programmable device, the revision information, wherein the means for storing comprises a revision register containing one or more memory locations, each memory location corresponding to a slave programmable device (note abstract, Figures 2-5, column 1, lines 25-38, column 2, lines 17-28, column 3, line 66 – column 4, line 3, column 4, lines 14-25, column 4, lines 36-51, column 5, line 55 – column 6, line 24, and claim 13).

Nakamura fails to disclose means for sending, by the system, a reset signal to a master programmable device and at least one slave programmable device thereby placing all programmable devices in a known good condition.

AAPA discloses means for sending, by the system, a reset signal to a master programmable device and at least one slave programmable device thereby placing all programmable devices in a known good condition (note page 6, lines 7-10 and page 7, lines 9-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to place all programmable devices in a known good condition using a reset signal, as AAPA teaches, in the system of Nakamura so as to insure that all devices are in a predetermined state before collecting revision information, thereby minimizing errors during the collection of revision information.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al., 6,442,446 (hereinafter Nakamura) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter

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AAPA), as applied to claims 4, 5, and 7 above, and further in view of Farmwald et al., 5,179,670 (hereinafter Farmwald).

As to claim 6, Nakamura and AAPA fail to disclose that the revision information comprises a pulse stream corresponding to the revision level of a slave programmable device.

Farmwald discloses that information sent between units on a bus comprise pulse streams corresponding to the number of units and the respective slot positions of the units (note abstract, column 1, line 53 – column 2, line 43 and column 4, line 44 – column 6, line 40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the use of pulse streams to indicate device specific information about devices on a bus, as Farmwald teaches, in the system of Nakamura and AAPA so as to reduce the number of signal lines required to provide device specific information to other devices in the system, as Farmwald teaches at column 1, lines 24-58.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, as the prior art teaches or suggests

US PG-PUBS: 2002/0172220 A1 Baker et al.

US Patents: 6,301,709 Warmink 5,881,292 Sigal et al.

Japanese
Patents: JP 11096013A Machida JP 09146861A Sakai
JP 06051961A Goshi JP 03294922A Ishikawa
JP 59058522A Fukunaga

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sumati Lefkowitz whose telephone number is 703-308-7790.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached at 703-305-4815.

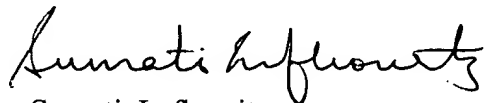
The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are:

703-746-7238 for After-Final communications

703-872-9306 for Official communications

703-746-5661 for Non-Official/Draft communications

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



Sumati Lefkowitz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2189

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October 16, 2003